

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-8 were pending in this application. By way of this reply, new claims 9-11 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-11 are now pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1 or claim 6.

Claim Amendments

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify that when the high speed reproduction key is operated, the compressed video and audio data is reproduced for a number of frames corresponding to the n-fold speed, and alternated with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of a normal speed and a two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments is present in the claims and in paragraphs [0029]-[0031] of the Specification as published.

Additionally, dependent claims 2, 4, 7, and 8 have been amended by way of this reply to clarify the claimed invention. Specifically, these dependent claims have been amended to correspond to independent claims 1 and 6 and to correct minor errors. No new subject matter has been added by way of these amendments, as support for these amendments is present, for example, in the original claims.

Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,787,225 issued to Honjo ("Honjo") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,925,042 issued to Nakajo ("Nakajo"). Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended as discussed above. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the claims as amended, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

One or more embodiments of the present invention are directed to a method and apparatus for high-speed reproduction (*i.e.*, playback) of digital video information previously recorded on a recoding medium (*e.g.*, a DVD) (*see* Specification, Abstract). In one or more embodiments of the invention, high-speed reproduction of digital video data is initiated by a high-speed reproduction key 20a. High-speed reproduction may be any speed above normal speed reproduction, for example, four-fold eight-fold, ten-fold, sixteen-fold, etc. (*see, e.g.*, Publication of the Specification, paragraphs [0024]-[0025]).

When high-speed reproduction is initiated, video information previously recorded on a DVD is reproduced for a number of frames at the designated high-speed reproduction rate, followed by the reproduction of video information for a number of frames at a normal reproduction rate. This process continues until high-speed reproduction of the digital video data is interrupted, for example, by a user (*see, e.g.*, Specification as published, paragraphs [0028]-[0030]). Reproduction according to one or more embodiments of the claimed invention is easier to understand for a user than standard high-speed reproduction (*see, e.g.*, Specification as published, paragraphs [0047]-[0048]).

Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 6 require a readout unit, and reading out from a recording medium compressed video and audio data compliant with MPEG format having a structure of sequential video information blocks in a predetermined number of frames.

Further, independent claims 1 and 6 require reproducing compressed video and audio data for a number of frames corresponding to an n -fold speed (where $n \geq 3$), alternating with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of normal speed and two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames.

Honjo, in contrast to the claimed invention, does not show or suggest at least the above limitations of the claimed invention. Rather, Honjo discloses operation of an optical disk player either at a normal-speed reproduction or at a high-speed reproduction (but not alternating between both of these speeds during reproduction) (*see* Honjo, col. 3, line 64 – col. 4, line 2). For example, during normal reproduction, Honjo discloses reproducing video signals frame-by-frame (*see* Honjo, col. 4, lines 22-28). Similarly, during high-speed reproduction, Honjo discloses reproducing certain video signals corresponding to I-pictures and P-pictures, which relate to types of image coding, only at the speed required for the high-speed reproduction (*see* Honjo, col. 4, lines 28-34, col. 3, lines 21-36). It would be clear to one skilled in the art that Honjo does not show or suggest at least reproducing compressed video and audio data for a number of frames corresponding to an n -fold speed, alternating with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of normal speed and two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames, as required by the claimed invention.

In the Office Action dated July 27, 2006, the Examiner has effectively maintained the assertion that Honjo teaches performing reproduction of compressed video and audio data at the n -fold speed and at the normal speed, alternately (*see* Office Action dated July 27, 2006, pages 3-4). However, it would be clear to one skilled in the art that Honjo does not show or suggest a single reproduction operation that alternates between an n -fold speed and one of a normal speed and a two-fold speed, as required by the claimed invention.

In an example 3-fold speed reproduction, Honjo merely discloses using I-pictures and P-pictures for reproducing images (*see* Honjo, col. 5, lines 62-65). Honjo clearly does not disclose reproducing compressed video and audio data for a number of frames corresponding to an n -fold speed (where $n \geq 3$), alternating with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of normal speed and two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames, as required by the claimed invention. Clearly, Honjo merely discloses a high-speed reproduction operation that reproduces at a single frame rate (*see* Honjo, col. 6, lines 11-35).

Nakajo also fails to show or suggest at least reproducing compressed video and audio data for a number of frames corresponding to an n -fold speed, alternating with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of normal speed and two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames, as required by the claimed invention. Further, Nakajo fails to show or suggest at least that which Honjo lacks.

In clear contrast to the claimed invention, and as noted by the Examiner, Nakajo discloses a high-speed recording system. Nakajo is completely silent with respect to high-speed reproduction (*i.e.*, playback), as required by the claimed invention. It would be clear to one skilled in the art that reproduction of a recorded medium is an operation that occurs separately from and independently of the recording of the medium, and that the above operation disclosed by Nakajo is completely separate from high speed reproduction of previously recorded video and audio data, as required by the claimed invention. The purported reproduction, cited by the Examiner as column 2, lines 55+ of Nakajo (*see* Office Action dated July 27, 2006, at page 4), is in fact merely a linear velocity multiplication factor for recording a disk, which is calculated dependent on a directed number of rotations for the constant angular velocity control and the time information detected by ATIP detection circuit 32 (*see* Nakajo, col. 13, lines 29-34). In further contrast to the claimed invention, Nakajo shows recording at a speed dependent on a

radial position of an optical beam on an optical disk, and controlling an irradiation time of the recording dependent on, for example, the position of the optical beam and a correction quantity k (see Nakajo, col. 2, lines 13-65, col. 13, line 11 – col. 14, line 37). Thus, the teachings of Nakajo are inapposite to the claimed invention.

In contrast, the claimed invention requires reproducing compressed video and audio data for a number of frames corresponding to an n -fold speed, and alternating by reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of normal speed and two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames.

In view of the above, Honjo and Nakajo, whether considered separately or in combination, fail to show or suggest the invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 6. Thus, independent claims 1 and 6 are patentable over Honjo and Nakajo. Claims 2-5, 7, and 8, directly or indirectly dependent from claims 1 or 6, are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

New Claims

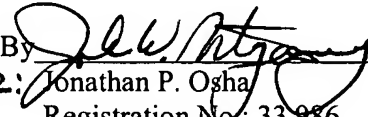
By way of this reply, new claims 9-11 have been added to specify, respectively, that the compressed video and audio data is reproduced for a number of frames corresponding to the n -fold speed and alternated with reproducing the compressed video and audio data in one of the normal speed and the two-fold speed for a predetermined number of frames until high speed reproduction is interrupted, that the predetermined number of frames is set arbitrarily, and that the predetermined number of frames is set by operating the setting key. No new matter has been added by way of new claims 9-11, as support for new claims 9-11 may be found, for example, in paragraphs [0024], [0041], and [0042] of the Specification as published, respectively.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 04995/121001).

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Respectfully submitted,

By  *Re No. 31,124*
For: Jonathan P. Osha
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant